

FLYNN

Serial No. 09/555,917

Amendment dated May 4, 2004

Response to Office Action dated February 26, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. By the present amendment, claim 17 has been amended for clarity.

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1. (*Previously Presented*) A method of routing data directed to a mobile node in a communications system, comprising:

maintaining reachability information for the mobile node;

sending data to the mobile node when the reachability information

E1 for the mobile node indicates that the mobile node is reachable; and

setting an alternative destination to which data is to be sent when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node to which the data is directed is unreachable.

Claim 2. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 1, wherein the data destination comprises a proxy node.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A method according to claim 2, further comprising storing the data at said proxy node until the mobile node becomes available.

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Claim 4. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 2, further comprising instructing the proxy node to send received data to the mobile node when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node has become reachable.

Claim 5. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 1, comprising setting the data destination in accordance with a user preference.

E1

Claim 6. (*Original*) A method according to claim 5, wherein the user preference specifies the conditions in which the user specified destination is to be used.

Claim 7. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reachability information comprises at least one destination address.

Claim 8. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 1, wherein the communications system comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) based system.

Claim 9. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 8, wherein the reachability information is maintained by a home agent router.

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Claim 10. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 8, wherein the destination address is a care-of address for the mobile node.

Claim 11. (*Previously Presented*) A mobile communications system comprising:

a mobile node;

means for maintaining reachability information for the mobile node;

means for receiving messages directed to the mobile node; and

a service controller configured to set a destination, to which

messages directed to the mobile node are to be forwarded when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node is unreachable.

Claim 12. (*Previously Presented*) A method of routing data directed to a mobile host which is away from its home network, comprising:

maintaining a record of locations through which the data can be routed to the mobile host, and in the event that the data cannot be routed to the mobile host through any of the locations specified in the record, then routing the data to an alternative destination from which it is available for subsequent retrieval to the mobile host.

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Claim 13. (*Original*) A method according to claim 12, further comprising storing the data at said alternative destination until the mobile host becomes available.

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) A mobile communications system comprising:  
a mobile host movable between its home network and a plurality of connected communications networks;

E / a router configured to route data intended for the mobile host to a location through which the data can be sent to the mobile host, when the mobile host is away from its home network; and

a service controller configured to intervene so as to send the data to an alternative location, when the data cannot be sent to the mobile host.

Claims 15-16. (*Canceled*).

Claim 17. (*Currently Amended*) A method of routing data directed to a mobile node in a communications system, comprising:

maintaining reachability information for the mobile node; and

setting a destination to which data is to be sent ~~from the~~ from a sender of the data only when the reachability information indicates that the mobile

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node is unreachable, said destination being a destination other than the

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unreachable mobile node.

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